

STATE HIGHWAYS
BILL UP IN HOUSE

Senate Measure, Backed by Administration, Has First Reading

MORE PAY TO MEMBERS

Increase of Legislators' Salaries to \$2500 Asked by Democratic Representative

By a Staff Correspondent
Harrisburg, Feb. 19.—Speedy consideration of the Eyre Senate bill to reorganize the State Highway Department was asked this morning when the bill was reported out in the House.

Representative Williams, Toga, chairman of the House Committee on Roads, reporting the measure out, said that it was a big factor. He declared the Governor and the Highway Commissioner were desirous of its speedy passage.

On motion of Mr. Williams the bill was given first reading. This bill is the first of the administration measures to come before the Legislature.

Determined opposition has developed to the bill introduced by Representative Shunk of Erie, to permit the Public Service Commission to suspend new rates announced by public utility corporations pending a hearing and decision on the question.

Under the present law the new rates are in effect while the matter is pending before the service commission. If the commission decides against the utility concerns it is then required to make a return of the increases collected.

Railroad and transit interests are said to be back of the opposition to the bill.

To Increase Lawmakers' Salaries
Representative West of Montour, introduced his bill today to fix the salary of members of the General Assembly at \$3500.

The bill also increases the mileage compensation to and from members' homes from twenty to thirty cents a mile.

Strong hopes are being entertained by the Legislature that the bill will be passed to raise the salaries of members of the House and Senate may be successful this time.

Their hopes were buoyed up considerably by a hint which Lieutenant Governor Biddleman dropped last night while speaking at a reception tendered by Governor Sprout at the State House.

Declaring that the Legislature will be the members part of its citizenry, the Lieutenant Governor said he wished they could remain here always instead of "drooping in" every two years for a few months.

Lieutenant Governor's Hint
"I know that the salaries begin to run low about the middle of March," he added, "and are gone entirely by the first of April, but the Governor is willing to add those who will come here in the future."

The fact that Governor Sprout did not touch on the reference in his remarks did not dampen the hopes of the legislators.

Leaders in the House said there was no doubt a bill to increase the present salary of legislators from \$1500 to \$2500 or \$3000, if passed, will receive the approval of Governor Sprout.

While Republican leaders have announced their disapproval of salary raises in general, there is said to be a disposition to favor an increase for the legislators, because the present emolument of \$1500 is declared to be inadequate.

No Extra Pay in Special Session
If the West bill goes through it probably will carry a proviso that they receive during any special session without extra compensation. Five hundred dollars is the compensation provided now for a special session.

Two years ago a bill to increase the salaries to \$1800 was defeated in the House. Representative West, who introduced the salary-raising bill today, is a Democrat. It is understood that any successful measure along that line must be sponsored from the Republican side.

Governor Sprout, in his remarks last night, announced to the people of Pennsylvania that the present administration planned to centralize the state government in Harrisburg by erecting buildings to house many departments now scattered in various parts of the State.

The Governor declared Harrisburg should do its part by improving housing conditions and erecting new city and county buildings to replace the present antiquated structures.

PENROSE TO ADVISE
ON ELECTION LAWS

Harrisburg, Feb. 19.—Senator W. E. Crow, chairman of the Republican State Committee, left Harrisburg for Washington last night for a conference on election laws which is pending in the Legislature which provide for changes in the election laws.

The bills which will be discussed particularly are the nonpartisan repealer and the election law designed to prevent party raiding.

MANY BILLS ADDED
TO HOUSE CALENDAR

Harrisburg, Feb. 19.—A bill conferring jurisdiction in all actions of trespass involving less than \$100 brought before the courts by Albert Miller, Dauphin, the bill also abolishes the distinction herebefore existing between actions of trespass and trespass on the case and specially excepts from jurisdiction of the Justices all actions of trespass, replevin and realty transactions.

Mr. H. H. Lehig, introduced a bill to increase the fee of constables attending elections from \$3 to \$5. It was introduced by \$300,000 for the soldiers and orphans of the late war and \$1,500,000 for the building program of the new Western Penitentiary.

Mr. Lawrence presented a bill whereby county commissioners may employ detectives in cases of misdemeanor with approval of president judges.

A bill creating a bureau of physical education of the State was introduced by Mr. Dawson. The bill provides for the repeal of the law of 1913 for nonpartisan election of judges and second-class city officers was introduced by Mr. Dawson. Lockman.

"SPEED-UP" POLICY
ADOPTED BY HOUSE

HOUSE INCREASES
SCHOOL TAX RATE

If Bill Becomes Law Seven Mills Assessment Likely Here

OCCUPATIONS LEVIED

Probe of Education Board Here Included in Legislative Investigation

The Board of Education was notified today that the State House of Representatives has passed finally the bill authorizing first-class school districts to advance the tax rate to eight mills, and for an occupational tax of \$1 for school purposes.

The present tax rate for Philadelphia is five to six mills. It is expected the Board of Education will order to carry in the Senate, make the tax rate mills for the coming year. Most of the members believe this would cover the needs of the school system for the present. They wished the maximum allowed at first class districts to have a way for future growth and need.

This will be used in school maintenance. The execution of the law will reach persons who do not pay real estate taxes, has been in effect in smaller school districts of the city but never been used before in first-class cities. Just how much additional revenue it will bring to local schools has not been estimated.

The two bills apply only to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. They necessarily mean that teachers' pay will be increased, as this revenue is for the support of the schools and the expense of equipment.

The bill allows the Board of Education to increase annual revenue of approximately \$3,500,000. Of this sum the Board is expected to use only about \$1,800,000, representing a seven-mill tax. The remainder will be available until 1920.

Investigation of the Board of Education in this city will be included in the House investigation by the Legislature of the school system of the state. Every phase of the school situation will be considered, if the idea is enforced, and measures will be drawn up to meet any defects uncovered.

Investigation Expected
This investigation has been expected for some time. Joseph W. Catherine, member of the Board of Education, said that he has anticipated some such condition of affairs.

"It is a good idea, which has been suggested by William T. Ramsey, of Delaware County, for the appointment of a committee to investigate the school system of the state. The state ought to take a greater interest in educational matters than heretofore in a supervisory way."

"But the survey I proposed a year ago about the school system, and Philadelphia should be in a position to say, 'There is no need of an investigation, gentlemen, here is the whole situation.'"

"I am not surprised by Mr. Ramsey's announcement, as the survey the board decided to make has not been made, but that it should be made, and I have expected something of this kind. I realized a year ago that we were going to be met with the very situation which we are now facing."

A survey of the public school system in Philadelphia was long ago demanded by the Bureau of Municipal Research and the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. Finally a resolution was moved at a meeting of the Board of Education by Mr. Catherine that a survey be made and passed with only one dissenting vote.

"When I offered the resolution," said Mr. Catherine, "my purpose was to see what changes in the school system could be made in our school system, and to find out if we were carrying on any activities which might be eliminated and thereby save money. The Philadelphia is concerned, the Legislature says, 'We allow you now to raise \$1,800,000; what are you doing with it?' In order to change the situation, to raise the tax by one-third we ought to be in a position to say what we require more money for."

"I hope the Legislature will find some means of providing more for the teachers. The local board cannot do it."

MERCHANT MARINE
HIT BY LABOR, CHARGE

Board of Trade Official Says Organization Keeps Men From Service

Investigation of local shipping conditions reveals the fact that although the United States Shipping Board is now spending millions of dollars in financing the Federal Maritime Commission, and Norfolk for the education of able-bodied seamen, an agreement signed by that body with the National Seamen's Union excludes all recruits for service aboard ships if there is union labor available. This "mountain of difficulty" reared in the way of a development of an American merchant marine has been called to the attention of the public by William H. Tucker, secretary of the Board of Trade.

"It is well that the public should know the situation," said Mr. Tucker. "The law requires that 55 per cent of the deck officers aboard any ship shall be able to show certificates of competency from the local United States inspectors, but the training schools which the shipping board is now maintaining simply equip a man with a scrape paint and scrub deck. He has no heavy work to do, and never, when the man having graduated as ordinary seaman from the training schools seeks employment, the representative of the local United States inspectors, his ultimatum: 'Will you join the union and take your place in line for a job?' If not, you can't ship."

Hold First Luncheon Today
The newly organized Men's Club of the Divine Science Association held its first luncheon at 12:30 o'clock today at the Club. The achievement of the society since its formation a little more than a year ago was discussed, as well as means for forwarding the work of the various branches, including the Belvedere-Stratford Hotel each Sunday afternoon.

Speaks on Women Workers
Mrs. E. M. Johnson, president of the National Women's Trade Union League, spoke on "The Organization of Women in Industry" in German town this afternoon. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Walter Cope, 306 East Johnson street. German town. More than 200 guests were invited to attend the meeting.

Hoves Lectures on Greece
The last of the illustrated lectures on Greece, by Professor Arthur W. Hovey, of the Central High School, was given this afternoon at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. Thirty-three and a half lectures were given in the series. The lectures were given at the Belvedere-Stratford Hotel each Sunday afternoon.

Discusses France's Invitation
The House Committee may accept bid to interparliamentary union. Washington, Feb. 19.—(By A. P.)—The invitation from France for American participation in the interparliamentary union meeting next month was discussed today at a conference of the House Foreign Relations Committee and Chairman Flood, and Representative Lathrop and Reganale, of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Action was postponed. The committee, it was stated, was strongly disposed to accept, but opposition from some of the members of the committee, in the presence of an American delegation in Paris might embarrass the President and American peace delegates.

Private Cars in Use Again
Railroad Administration Recinds Order Prohibiting Use
Private railroad cars which had been "stored" on side tracks during the war are being rolled about the southern part of the country meeting the demands of pleasure parties at the winter resorts. The Federal Railroad Administration soon after it took control, which prohibited the use of private cars, has been rescinded.

Many of the private cars, particularly the more antiquated ones, were commandeered by the army medical department and remodeled into hospital cars. Cars returned wounded from the front were used considerably decreased the number of these cars and the available ones are now in constant use.

Traveling in a private car entails the following expense: The fixed rental of \$50 per day, plus a 10 per cent war tax, a guarantee of the equivalent of thirty fares in the place of destination, and 25 per cent. This places the cost of a trip to Chicago, for instance, at about \$80. Nevertheless, the demand for private cars is increasing and officials of the Pullman Company at the Grand Central Terminal say it is doubtful if the demand can be met.

WIFE OF AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE
FIRE-GRAB CURB
OBJECT OF BILL

Attorney General Preparing Measure to Regulate or Abolish System

SHEEHAN GOT \$194,422.97

Rest of Term Will Show Greater Income Through Inheritance Tax

Harrisburg, Feb. 19.—Attorney General Schaffer announces that as a result of a conference he had with Ira Jewell Williams, of Philadelphia, legislation would be prepared regulating or possibly abolishing the collection of fees by registers of wills throughout the commonwealth.

Mr. Williams represented the city of Philadelphia in the Sheehan case. The Attorney General said his department would co-operate with Mr. Williams or any other person in an effort to prevent the collection of excessive fees by officers charged with the duty of collecting collateral and direct inheritance taxes.

"My department is investigating the means of preventing the collection of such excessive fees," said Mr. Schaffer. "It is a difficult thing to find just the exact means of remedying the situation. For instance, if a bill was prepared abolishing all fees, it might prove to be unconstitutional. I am not sure of that, because I have not looked the matter up. But something must be done to keep the fees within a reasonable amount, if they are to be paid at all. The entire question requires investigation."

The return of the Sheehan tax so far from direct inheritance tax has not been large, but there are prospects of big gains for him, as the direct inheritance tax, passed in 1917, has been rather slow in getting into operation. As Mr. Sheehan will get 2 per cent of the 5 per cent tax paid to the state on such inheritances, it can easily be figured that he has prospects of gaining something like a Monte Carlo fortune in a remarkably short time.

For instance, a \$20,000 estate would yield the state \$1,000,000 in taxes and in turn would donate \$20,000 to Mr. Sheehan. Mr. Sheehan has received relatively small returns from the direct inheritance tax so far, because there is sometimes great delay in the settlement of estates. But combined with the fees he receives from other sources, he has been rather slow in getting into operation. As Mr. Sheehan will get 2 per cent of the 5 per cent tax paid to the state on such inheritances, it can easily be figured that he has prospects of gaining something like a Monte Carlo fortune in a remarkably short time.

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Income Tax Cheap Price
for Peace and Victory

An income tax is a cheap price to pay for peace and victory. Have you paid yours? Don't try to fool your conscience by cheating the returning soldiers and forgetting to pay your income tax. An income tax evader hasn't much on any of the other prodigals.

Let every mailed soldier you see be a reminder that your income tax is due.

NEW BILL MAY HAVE EFFECT ON CHARTER

Would Abolish Commission Form of Councils in Pittsburgh and Scranton

By a Staff Correspondent
Harrisburg, Feb. 19.—A bill providing for the repeal of the 1913 nonpartisan law, which requires the nomination and election of mayors and councilmen in the second-class cities of Pittsburgh and Scranton on a nonpartisan ticket, was introduced in the House today by Representative Hugh A. Dawson, of Scranton. The bill also provides for the repeal of the nonpartisan judiciary act, which is a part of the 1913 law.

Another bill to be introduced by Dawson will require mayors and councilmen in Pittsburgh and Scranton to be nominated and elected on party tickets and will supplant the present commission form of councils in these two cities by representative bodies, the members of which are to be elected by districts.

The Dawson bill may affect materially the course of the proposed new charter bill from Philadelphia when it reaches the Legislature.

The bill will provide for a minimum council of five and a maximum of seventeen, based on one member for every 35,000 population. The measure is not a ripper in that it provides for the present councilmen in Pittsburgh and Scranton to serve out their terms.

Governor Sprout in a recent interview in Pittsburgh expressed himself as opposed to any change in the present form of city government in that city. Sponsors of the measure, however, say the Governor misunderstood the situation.

Pittsburgh politicians were reported to be desirous of making a new measure which would permit that city to revert to the old ward method of electing councilmen. The Governor has expressed himself as opposed to district representation.

When conditions became so bad that the decent citizens demanded Mayor McDevitt to take charge of the police situation and name a two-listed man as head of the department, the Mayor turned to Davenport for aid. He would have named Davenport as chief of police, run the city on a political basis, and have a dishonest policeman, even if that policeman should live up to powerful political friends.

"The job is yours under these conditions," said the Mayor. "I have named the new chief and I plan that he would have a political character. I would have named Davenport as chief of police, run the city on a political basis, and have a dishonest policeman, even if that policeman should live up to powerful political friends."

When discussing his plans today, the new chief made it plain that he would have a political character. He would have named Davenport as chief of police, run the city on a political basis, and have a dishonest policeman, even if that policeman should live up to powerful political friends.

"I will take the job under one condition," said Davenport, "then he informed me that he would not be named as chief of police, run the city on a political basis, and have a dishonest policeman, even if that policeman should live up to powerful political friends."

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